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Legislative Alert: Jobs Through Growth Act (S. 1720)

William Samuel
AFL-CIO

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Legislative Alert: Jobs Through Growth Act (S. 1720)

Abstract
[Excerpt] On behalf of the AFL-CIO, I am writing to urge you to oppose the so-called "Jobs Through Growth Act" (S. 1720), which the Senate will consider later this week.

S. 1720 is not a jobs bill: it is a repackaging of tired old ideas to cripple the government and overturn protections for workers and consumers. S. 1720 would give corporate interests and Wall Street unfettered power and benefit the wealthy at the expense of the middle class.

Keywords
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November 10, 2011

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the AFL-CIO, I am writing to urge you to oppose the so-called “Jobs Through Growth Act” (S. 1720), which the Senate will consider later this week.

S. 1720 is not a jobs bill; it is a repackaging of tired old ideas to cripple the government and overturn protections for workers and consumers. S. 1720 would give corporate interests and Wall Street unfettered power and benefit the wealthy at the expense of the middle class.

The list of objectionable provisions in S. 1720 is a long one, but the following are some of the most destructive:

- A constitutional balanced budget amendment, which would threaten the economy and undermine Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, and other programs that provide services to the most vulnerable Americans.
- Repeal of the Affordable Care Act, which would deny millions of Americans access to basic health care.
- A host of anti-regulatory measures, including the Regulations from the Executive in Need of Scrutiny (REINS) (S. 299), the Regulatory Moratorium and Jobs Preservation Act (S. 1438), the FREEDOM Act (S. 1030), and the Unfunded Mandates Accountability Act (S. 1189), which would make it nearly impossible for the government to issue needed safeguards to protect workers and the public from harm.
- Repeal of the Dodd-Frank Financial Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, which would allow Wall Street to return to the abusive practices that precipitated the financial crisis that is responsible for our ongoing jobs crisis.
- Amendments to the National Labor Relations Act that would take away the National Labor Relation Board’s (NLRB) authority to effectively enforce the law when employers retaliate against workers for exercising their rights to engage in collective action.
- Renewal of Trade Promotion Authority (TPA), which would allow job-killing trade deals to be approved through fast track procedures that allow no opportunity for real debate or amendment.
America wants to work. The Congress should move forward, not backwards, to create good, well-paying jobs by passing legislation that does the following:

- Rebuilds America’s schools and transportation and energy systems.
- Revives U.S. manufacturing and stop exporting good jobs overseas.
- Puts people to work doing work that needs to be done through the direct creation of jobs in local communities.
- Helps federal, state, and local governments avoid more layoffs and cutbacks in public services.
- Helps fill the massive shortfall of consumer demand by extending unemployment benefits and keeping homeowners in their homes.
- Reforms Wall Street so that it helps Main Street create jobs.

For all these reasons, we ask you to oppose S. 1720 and turn your attention to legislation that would actually help create much needed jobs and put America back to work.

Sincerely,

William Samuel, Director
GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT